



**BRENT  
WALTZ**  
State Senate — District 36

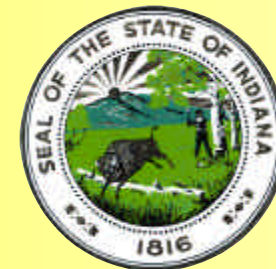
2005 Legislative Update

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WALTZ**  
State Senate — District 36



## 2005 Legislative Update

Dear Friends,

**It has been an honor to serve these past few months as your State Senator.** We have accomplished many positive things in the 2005 General Assembly, and I would like to share with you a few memorable pieces of legislation passed this year. Indiana is slowly rebuilding its economy, but there is still a long way to go before Hoosiers enjoy the level of prosperity we deserve. In 2004, Indiana was 50<sup>th</sup> of all states in job creation; today we are 46<sup>th</sup>. The massive layoffs and plant closings of prior years are becoming less frequent, but there is still much work yet to be done. Gasoline prices are near an all-time high, and interest rates are moving higher. Our economy is in a precarious position, and it is vital that **those of us who represent you in Indiana government do what we can to protect Hoosier families, taxpayers, and businesses.**

In spite of our challenges, **I believe Indiana's best years are still ahead.** We have accomplished much in an extremely short period of time; however, we still have a long way to go before Indiana achieves the success and prosperity it deserves. I pledge to provide you regular updates on our efforts to get Indiana moving forward. If I can answer any questions you might have, please do not hesitate to contact me. Together, I am confident that we will prevail.

Sincerely,

*Brent Waltz*

Brent Waltz  
State Senator,  
District 36



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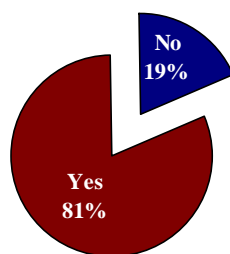
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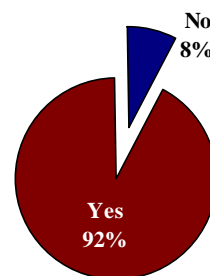
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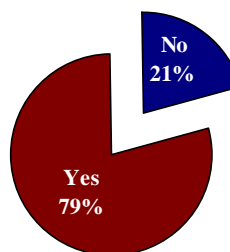
## 2005 Legislative Survey Results



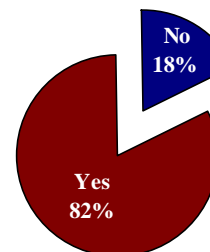
1. Should police officers have greater discretion in temporarily confiscating firearms from citizens they believe to be mentally ill?  
**Yes: 81% No: 19%**



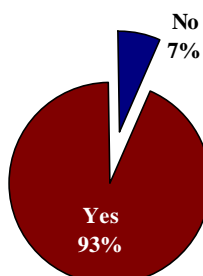
4. Should state law be changed to require abortion clinics to meet the same health standards as outpatient health care centers?  
**Yes: 92% No: 8%**



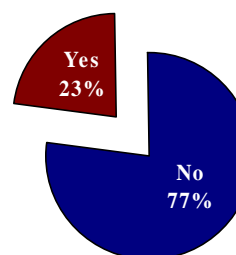
2. Should schools receive state funding based on the number of students in the school district?  
**Yes: 79% No: 21%**



5. Do you support a state constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman?  
**Yes: 82% No: 18%**



3. Do you believe voters should provide proof of identification at the polling place?  
**Yes: 93% No: 7%**



6. Should the state commit to spend \$1.7 billion to extend I-69 from Indianapolis to Evansville, even if it requires a significant gas tax increase?  
**Yes: 23% No: 77%**



# DNA Fingerprinting For Felons

DNA technology has revolutionized crime fighting and is playing a valuable role in bringing criminals to justice. The ability to link a suspect's DNA with evidence at a crime scene has convicted thousands of criminals who might otherwise be preying on innocent victims.

Recently, a man accused of raping and killing a 10-year-old girl in southern Indiana was linked to the crime by a cigarette with his DNA on it. Just as a nationwide database of fingerprints solved otherwise unsolvable crimes in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, we must establish a DNA database for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Senate Bill 13 mandates that all felons convicted in the state of Indiana submit a DNA sample.** Not only will future crimes be solved should these criminals choose to commit another crime when they are released from prison, there is an excellent chance that prior crimes will be solved by comparing existing evidence with the DNA database.

Since modern DNA testing techniques can confirm a criminal's identify with the smallest fragment of DNA left decades before, I am confident that this bill will catch rapists and murderers from many years ago who otherwise would never have been convicted.

## Voter ID

**Indiana ratified one of the strongest voter identification laws in the nation.** I supported Senate Bill 483, which mandates that voters present a driver's license, state identification card, military ID, passport, or any other official identification at the time they cast their ballot.

In my fall legislative survey, 93% of respondents in our district agreed that voter identification should be presented on Election Day in order to help reduce voter fraud. During Senate hearings, many people testified concerning voter fraud and how a lack of photo identification contributes to these criminals thwarting democracy.

A provision in the bill allows citizens unable to afford a photo ID to have one made for them free of charge. No one should be denied the right to vote because they cannot afford a driver's license, nor should a citizen's ballot be marginalized by voter fraud.

**Senate Bill 483 protects both the right to vote and the right of every citizen's vote to count equally.** Congratulations to Senator Vic Heinold for his leadership on this important issue.



*Senator Waltz enjoyed a visit with students from Christel House Academy during their field trip to the Indiana Statehouse this winter.*

# Promises Made, Promises Kept

We are witnessing nothing short of a revolution in Indiana government. The Indiana legislature, under the leadership of Governor Daniels, has established several bold initiatives that improve Indiana's government. **Economic development has been given**

**Those of us in public service will work hard to earn your trust and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.**

**highest priority.** We established a Secretary of Commerce whose primary responsibility is to develop Indiana's economy and attract businesses to our state. Ethics standards have been raised, and government oversight to punish criminal behavior by government employees has never been higher. **Those of us in public service will work hard to earn your trust and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.**

In keeping with a promise I made last year as a Senate candidate, I have donated my legislative pension to the Central Indiana United Way. The United Way sponsors a variety of valuable organizations and activities throughout central Indiana. I am proud to contribute in a small way to the United Way's important work.

# In Defense of Marriage

**I voted for Senate Joint Resolution 7, an amendment to the Indiana Constitution defining marriage to be between a man and a woman.** There is great concern that court rulings in states like Massachusetts and Vermont may force Indiana to recognize same-sex marriages. Existing laws provide the ability for same-sex partners to make medical decisions for one another in durable power of attorney contracts. Likewise, assets can be transferred by last wills of testament to anyone they choose. Churches are free to establish whatever policies they want within the beliefs of their religion. **This Constitutional amendment simply states that the State of Indiana will not recognize same-sex marriage and defines marriage to be solely between a man and a woman.**

If someone had told me a few years ago that we'd be debating in the Indiana General Assembly whether or not to legalize same-sex marriage, I would have thought them to be joking. Yet, that is exactly what happened this year. As I stated when I spoke in favor of the amendment on the floor of the State Senate, **"This is good for Indiana. It's good for the values I hold dear and the people I represent."** The constitutional amendment passed overwhelmingly in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

# Gambling Expansion DEFEATED

As the 2005 General Assembly debated its budget, some legislators wanted to dramatically expand gambling – specifically, legalizing thousands of so-called "Cherry Masters" in bars, taverns, and other establishments where alcohol is served. Cherry Masters look like video games, but are essentially electronic slot machines. The proposal would have been the largest expansion of gambling in Indiana's history.

**In Marion and Johnson County alone, there would have been as many as 961 "mini-casinos" legalized – including two mini-casinos in Greenwood Park Mall.** These slot machines could have been as close as 200 feet from our public schools. This is absolutely unacceptable. The negative consequences of such a dramatic expansion of gambling would have been significant. No longer would people have the opportunity to gamble only by traveling to a riverboat in Indiana – they could do it at their neighborhood restaurants.

It was critical that both the public and the legislature be educated about the perils of such a huge expansion of gambling. **I, along with other concerned legislators, appealed to the common sense of our fellow members of the General Assembly and took a leadership role in fighting against Cherry Masters.** In the March 11, 2005, edition of *The Indianapolis Star*, I wrote "The tens of thousands of families harmed by layoffs and job loss do not have the option of building a 'mini casino' to pay their bills. Neither should the state of Indiana."

# The State Budget, 2005-2007

Indiana operates on a two-year budget cycle. Approximately \$24 billion will be spent to fund Indiana over the next two years. Most of this will fund education (63% of the budget), ranging from K-12 schools to our state universities. For years, Indiana operated with a deficit budget, and **I am pleased to report that our state has the first truly balanced budget in over a decade.** The raiding of teacher's pension funds has stopped. The budget projections are based on a conservative growth rate for Indiana's economy, and Medicaid projections are placed at an annually growth rate of 5% — slightly lower than the historical norm, but well within a reasonable target. Several critical programs, such as First Steps, were fully funded. These important programs protect Hoosier children that might otherwise be placed at risk. Not only will their quality of life be greatly enhanced, their long-term cost to the taxpayer will be much lower.

**While there was much to be pleased with in this budget, the concern I have about a potential rise in property taxes compelled me to vote "No."** In 2002, the Indiana legislature passed a property tax "reform" that regrettably resulted in a massive tax increase on many homeowners. In hundreds of instances in our district, homeowners saw their property taxes go up at least 100% or more. I remember speaking last year with a man who has lived near Edgewood Ave. for over 40 years. He was in his early 80s and had recently lost his wife to cancer. A World War II veteran, he had worked most of his adult life. He told me that he was never rich, but he was proud that he raised his kids,



*Senator Waltz authored a resolution and spoke on the Senate floor to recognize the hard work and dedication of the cast and crew of the Hoosier-made movie, "Madison."*

Thankfully, others took notice. Columnist Russ Pulliam attacked the Cherry Master proposal in his weekly column in *The Star*. Governor Daniels directed the Indiana State Police to crack down on illegal Cherry Master slot machines in bars and taverns throughout Indiana. Thousands of dollars in illegal gambling money was confiscated during these raids. **Shortly after my newspaper article and these raids, the legislators and gambling lobbyists who wanted thousands of mini-casinos across the State of Indiana withdrew their proposal.** I am pleased with the outcome of this important battle against the expansion of gambling.

helped put them through college, and had saved enough for a comfortable retirement. Unfortunately, his wife's medical bills had been high, and the ever-increasing property taxes severely diminished his savings. He was afraid that he'd be forced to move from his home if his taxes continued to rise. I promised him I'd remember him if I were elected to the Senate. And I have not forgotten.

In addition to the standard 4% to 5% increase in residential property taxes that naturally results from the tax structure established over three decades ago, the potential for another significant rise in property taxes remains in many communities – including Marion County. Local government will have the option to raise property taxes to replace certain taxes that were repealed prior to my election to the Senate in 2004. It is estimated that these increases could be as high as \$800 million over the next two years. Respected Purdue University tax economist Larry DeBoer expressed concern about these increases in the April 30 edition of the Lafayette Courier Journal: "After all the talk of moving away from property taxes – of defending property taxpayers from tax increases – here we are, essentially changing course."

**I will continue to fight and vote against higher property taxes.** Senior citizens and young families beginning their careers are most harmed by these tax increases. I pray that these property tax increases never materialize; but in these delicate economic times, I don't believe Indiana can afford to take that chance.

**I will continue to fight and vote against higher property taxes.**